

## Message Text

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46

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 SY-05 TRSE-00 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 L-03 /040 W

----- 130098

R 081259Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6462

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, NL

SUBJECT: LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789

1. SUMMARY: NETHERLANDS HAS STRICT LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PRIVATE IMPORTATION, TRADE AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. THESE LAWS ARE IMPLEMENTED BY WELL-DEFINED ACTIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR DUTCH AUTHORITIES TO MAINTAIN FULLY EFFECTIVE CONTROLS BECAUSE OF LESS STRICT AND LESS SEVERELY IMPLEMENTED REGULATIONS ESPECIALLY IN NEIGHBORING BELGIUM AND TO LESSER EXTENT IN WEST GERMANY. END SUMMARY.

2. NETHERLANDS HAS STRICT LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PRIVATE IMPORTATION, TRADE AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. THESE COVERED BY TWO BASIC LAWS, WHICH HAVE BEEN FREQUENTLY AMENDED AS NECESSARY; (1) THE WAPENWET, ORIGINALLY APPROVED IN 1890, WHICH PERTAINS TO THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IN PUBLIC PLACES AND (2) THE VUURWAPENWET, APPROVED IN 1919, WHICH COVERS POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION. THIS ACTIVITY IS UNDER THE CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STAFF BUREAU OF LEGAL AFFAIRS IN THE POLICE DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

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3. CONTROL OVER FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION IS EXERCISED THROUGH SEVERAL STEPS AND DOCUMENTS:

A. A PERSON OR A FIRM DESIRING TO IMPORT FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR SAME TO THE QUEEN'S COMMISSIONER (GOVERNOR) OF THE PROVINCE IN WHICH HE OR IT RESIDES.

B. IF ABOVE APPLICATION APPROVED, COMMISSIONER ISSUES HIS "CONSENT" (LICENSE). ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANT IS DECIDED BY COMMISSIONER ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

C. WHEN IMPORTED FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION ARRIVE AT THE POINT OF ENTRY, THE IMPORTER SUBMITS TO THE POLICE CHIEF AN APPLICATION FOR AN ESCORT-TICKET FOR TRANSPORTATION TO FINAL DESTINATION. IF APPROVED, POLICE CHIEF ISSUES THE ESCORT-TICKET FOR TRANSPORTATION. WITHOUT LATTER AND COMMISSIONER'S LICENSE THE CUSTOMS WILL NOT RPT NOT RELEASE THE GOODS.

D. IF A PRIVATE PERSON WANTS TO PURCHASE FIREARMS LOCALLY, HE MAKES THE SELECTION, THEN SUBMITS AN APPLICATION TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE. IF APPROVED, THE LATTER ISSUES AN AUTHORIZATION TO POSSESS THE FIREARMS AND A DELIVERY VOUCHER. THE BUYER MUST HAND THE VOUCHER TO THE SELLER BEFORE BEING ABLE TO TAKE DELIVERY.

4. ALL THE ABOVE MENTIONED DOCUMENTS ARE ON PRESCRIBED FORMS.

5. ALL FIREARM DEALERS, WHOLESALERS AND RETAILERS ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN A REGISTER OF SALES, IN WHICH INFORMATION ON THE BUYER AND THE ITEMS PURCHASED IS ENTERED. THESE REGISTERS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY THE POLICE AT ALL TIMES.

6. WHILE NETHERLANDS HAS STRICT FIREARM CONTROL REGULATIONS, POLICE AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TOLD US LEAKAGES TAKING PLACE MAINLY WITH REGARD TO BELGIUM AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, WEST GERMANY. THEY ADDED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR DUTCH AUTHORITIES TO MAINTAIN FULLY EFFECTIVE CONTROLS BECAUSE THE REGULATIONS IN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES ARE LESS STRICT AND LESS SEVERELY APPLIED. NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING HELD FOR UNIFORM BENELUX FIREARMS REGULATIONS AND CONTROLS, BUT POSITIVE RESULTS ARE NOT EXPECTED SOON SINCE BELGIUM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANXIOUS TO TIGHTEN ITS CONTROLS, ACCORDING TO THE DUTCH OFFICIALS.  
BROWN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMALL ARMS, IMPORT CONTROLS  
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**Draft Date:** 08 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAWS GOVERNING FIREARMS IMPORTATION  
**TAGS:** MILI, NL  
**To:** STATE  
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